



United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA Completes Environmental Assessment for Genetically Engineered Eucalyptus

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed an environmental assessment for a controlled field trial of a genetically engineered eucalyptus hybrid. The purpose of this release is to continue research on the efficacy of genetic constructs intended to confer cold tolerance, alter lignin biosynthesis and alter fertility.

After assessing the application, reviewing pertinent scientific information and considering comments by the public, APHIS has concluded that these field releases are unlikely to pose a plant pest risk. They are also unlikely to have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its finding of no significant impact, APHIS has determined that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared for this field release.

This notice is published in today's May 12 *Federal Register* and becomes effective immediately.

Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at www.aphis.usda.gov and click on the "Newsroom" button to view and/or sign up to receive releases via the RSS feed link. For additional information about this topic contact Joelle Hayden at (301) 734-0595 or by e-mail at joelle.r.hayden@aphis.usda.gov.

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